

# What Ohioans Think About...

## Smoking Bans in Workplaces, Restaurants, and Bars

Results from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll 2006



The 2006 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* repeated a question from the 2005 poll about respondents' support for an Ohio state law that would make it illegal to smoke in all workplaces, restaurants, and bars. We also added questions about smoking status and restrictions on smoking in workplaces, restaurants, or bars separately from each other.



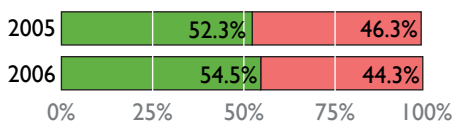
### Smokers in Ohio

According to the 2006 *Ohio Health Issues Poll*, 26.9% of Ohioans smoke, compared to 20.8% of the nation. In Ohio in general, as age, income, or education level increase, the number of people who smoke decreases. Geographically, smoking rates are highest in southern Ohio (30.6%). Smoking rates were slightly higher among residents of Ohio's urban (28.3%) and rural (27.4%) counties than of suburban (24.5%) counties.

### Comprehensive law making smoking illegal in all workplaces, bars, and restaurants

According to the 2006 *Ohio Health Issues Poll*, more than half of Ohioans (54.5%) would favor a state law that would make it illegal to smoke in all workplaces, restaurants, and bars.

Would you **favor** or **oppose** an Ohio state law that would make it illegal to smoke in all workplaces, restaurants, and bars?<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Percent of respondents reporting "don't know" are not included in this chart. This can be calculated by subtracting the percent reporting "favor" and "oppose" from 100%.

Demographic groups with high numbers of current smokers would not necessarily oppose the law. For example, people with less than a high school education have the highest smoking rates among all education levels, but were among the top four demographic groups to favor a law making smoking illegal. Ohioans more and less likely to favor the law include:

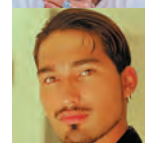
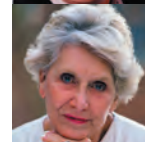
People <b>more</b> likely to favor the law <sup>1</sup>	% who favor the law	% who are current smokers
College graduates	66.3%	16.4%
Nonsmokers <sup>2</sup>	66.0%	0.0%
African Americans	63.4%	22.8%
People with less than a high school education	58.4%	41.2%
Republicans	58.1%	25.7%
People with incomes above 200% of poverty	57.6%	22.8%

People <b>less</b> likely to favor the law	% who favor the law	% who are current smokers
People ages 18-29	50.6%	29.1%
Independents	47.3%	39.0%
People with incomes below 100% of poverty	46.0%	45.0%
High school graduates	44.4%	29.2%
People who are not registered to vote	43.6%	49.0%
Current smokers	23.4%	100.0%

<sup>1</sup> For complete results, please visit [www.oasis.uc.edu](http://www.oasis.uc.edu). The *Ohio Health Issues Poll 2006* is included under *The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's* collection.

<sup>2</sup> Nonsmokers include people classified as never having smoked and people classified as previous smokers (meaning they smoked at one time but were not current smokers).

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Across demographic groups, minor variations were seen in most groups between 2005 and 2006 with a few notable exceptions. Demographic groups that saw a large increase in the numbers supporting the state law include:

- white males (51.2% in 2006 compared to 43.9% in 2005),
- Ohioans ages 30–45 (56.3% in 2006 compared to 41.7% in 2005), and
- Ohioans with less than a high school education (58.4% in 2006 compared to 39.3% in 2005).

Demographic groups that saw a large decrease in the numbers supporting the state law include:

- high school graduates (44.4% in 2006 compared to 51.8% in 2005),
- Ohioans who are not registered to vote (43.6% in 2006 compared to 51.6% in 2005), and
- Ohioans ages 65 and older (53.3% in 2006 compared to 70.9% in 2005).

## Levels of smoking restrictions in workplaces, restaurants, or bars

Over half of Ohioans would favor a comprehensive state law that would make it illegal to smoke in all workplaces, restaurants, and bars. However, when given a choice about smoking in specific locations, fewer Ohioans say smoking should be banned in bars than in restaurants or workplaces. Half of Ohioans say smoking should be totally banned in restaurants (50.7%), one-third (36.8%) say smoking should be totally banned in workplaces, but only one-fifth (20.7%) say smoking should be totally banned in bars. These rates are slightly lower than the national rates found in the July 2005 Gallup Poll on smoking bans (see graph below).

Even smokers say there should be some restrictions on smoking in restaurants: 9 out of 10 Ohio smokers said smoking should be totally banned from restaurants (30.0%) or that there should be certain areas set aside for smoking in restaurants (63.1%). Smokers also support restrictions on smoking in the workplace, with 13.0% supporting a ban on smoking in the workplace and 80.4% supporting that certain areas be set aside for smoking in the workplace. However, two-thirds of Ohio smokers (63.7%) say there should be no restrictions on smoking in bars.



<sup>1</sup> Percent of respondents reporting “don’t know” are not included in these charts.

<sup>2</sup> Nonsmokers include Ohio residents classified as never having smoked and people classified as previous smokers (meaning they smoked at one time but were not current smokers).